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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SEVENOAKS

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for

1941

together with the

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

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Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 1941

on the

Sanitary Conditions and Vital Statistics of the Sevenoaks Urban District

by the

Medical Officer of Health

Together with the Report of the Sanitary Inspector

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

HEALTH REPORT FOR 1941

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Health Report for the year 1941, this being the nineteenth one presented by me as your Medical Officer of Health.

The Report is again curtailed, and contains only such information as it is essential to record.

The population of the District is estimated by the Registrar-General at mid-year 1941 to be 13,510, as compared with 12,780 last year.

The Birth Rate for the year was 11.3 per thousand of population, as compared with 14.3 last year.

A decrease took place in the Death Rate, viz. 12.0 per thousand of population, as against 13.6 last year.

A very considerable decrease in the Infantile Mortality Rate took place, this being 6 per thousand registered births, as compared with 45 last year. This Rate is liable to fluctuate owing to the small numbers involved.

From the point of view of the incidence of Infectious Disease the year was a satisfactory one. Although the cases notified were somewhat more numerous than in 1940, this was accounted for by the number of cases of Measles and Whooping Cough notified.

In submitting this Report, I desire to thank the Council and its Officers for their help and assistance. In particular, I should like to place on record my appreciation of the loyal and efficient service rendered by Mr. Gypps and the Health Visitor.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

P. N. CAVE,

Medical Officer of Health.

Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

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STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:
P. N. CAVE, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector:
W. J. GYPPS, C.R.S.I.

Health Visitor:
Miss N. MATHER.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	3,720
Registrar-General's estimate of population, mid-1941...	13,510
Number of occupied houses, December, 1941	4,058
Rateable Value of District, December, 1941	£164,986
Sum represented by a penny rate	£646

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births:	Total.	M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Legitimate	145	73	72	
Illegitimate	9	5	4	
Total Births ...	154	78	76	11.3
				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Stillbirths	3	2	1	19.1
				Rate per 1,000 of estimated population.
Deaths	163	65	98	12.0
				Rate per 1,000 (live and still) births.
Deaths from Puerperal causes:				
Puerperal Sepsis			Nil	–
Other Puerperal causes			Nil	–

Infant Deaths:	Number of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 live births
All Infants	1	6
		Rate per 1,000 legitimate live births
Legitimate Infants	1	6
		Rate per 1,000 illegitimate live births
Illegitimate Infants ...	–	–

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	26
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	–
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	–
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)...	–

VITAL STATISTICS

Births.—The number of Births registered as belonging to the District during 1941 was 154, of which 78 were males and 76 were females. The Birth Rate for the year was equal to 11.3 per thousand of population.

Deaths.—During the year 163 Deaths were registered of persons belonging to this District, giving a Death Rate of 12.0 per thousand of population.

Infant Deaths.—During the year 1 death was registered as occurring in an infant under one year of age, the Infantile Mortality Rate being 6 per thousand registered Births.

	Sevenoaks Urban District.	England and Wales.
Birth Rate	11.3	13.1
Death Rate	12.0	12.9
Infantile Mortality Rate	6	59

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The following Table shows the number of cases notified, together with the number removed to hospital and the total deaths :—

Disease	Number notified	Removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever	8	7	...
Diphtheria	1	1	...
Typhoid Fever	2	2	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	...	...
Pneumonia	2	...	7*
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	3	...
Whooping Cough	14	...	...
Measles	74	...	...
TOTALS	106	13	7

* all forms

BIRTH RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH RATES, ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY, MATERNAL MORTALITY & CASE RATES for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1941.

	England and Wales	126 County Boro's and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns (Resident Populations 25,000 to 50,000, 1931 Census)	London Administrative County	Sevenoaks Urban District
	Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population *				
BIRTHS:					
Live	14.2	14.7	16.4	8.9	11.3
Still	0.51	0.58	0.60	0.33	0.22
DEATHS:					
All Causes	12.9	14.9	13.0	16.3	12.0
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	...
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	...
Whooping Cough	0.06	0.07	0.06	0.40	...
Diphtheria	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.30	...
Influenza	0.19	0.17	0.20	0.15	0.51
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.02	...
	Rates per 1,000 Live Births				
Deaths under one year of age	59	71	56	68	6
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under two years of age	5.1	7.5	4.6	6.8	...
	Rate per 1,000 Civilian Population				
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Enteric Fever	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.04	0.14
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	0.25	0.31	0.20	0.30	0.22
Scarlet Fever	1.47	1.49	1.51	1.01	0.59
Whooping Cough	4.39	4.37	4.50	3.50	1.03
Diphtheria	1.25	1.53	1.19	0.93	0.07
Erysipelas	0.30	0.36	0.27	0.50	0.07
Smallpox	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	10.33	8.27	10.47	4.77	5.47
Pneumonia	1.25	1.53	1.04	1.07	0.14
	Rates per 1 000 Total Births (i.e. Live and Still)				
MATERNAL MORTALITY: (excluding Abortion)					
Puerperal Infection (No. 147)	0.48	Not available.			
Others	1.75				
Total	2.23				
NOTIFICATIONS:					
Puerperal Fever	11.91	15.64	9.43	2.29	6.36
Puerperal Pyrexia				19.3 including Puerperal Fever.	

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified, together with the number of deaths registered:—

	Notified			Deaths		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	6	4	10	5	2	7
Non-Pulmonary	3	1	4	1	...	1
Totals	9	5	14	6	2	8

The Kent County Council carries out the treatment for cases of Tuberculosis, and during the year the following number of patients from this District have received treatment:—

Patients receiving sanitorium treatment 16
Patients receiving dispensary treatment 20
Dispensary supervision only 26

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936, SECTION 176

No action under the above was required to be taken during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The number of new cases treated during the year was 322, the total number of attendances being 987.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL

The following number of cases of Infectious Disease were admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year:—

Scarlet Fever 7
Diphtheria 1
Typhoid Fever 2
Cerebro-spinal Fever 3

In addition, 48 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted under an arrangement with the Kent County Council.

During the year 25 cases of Tuberculosis were discharged, and 11 died.

LABORATORY WORK

The bacteriological work in connection with this District is carried out at the Kent County Laboratory, Maidstone.

The following number of specimens have been examined there during the year:—

	Positive	Negative	Total
Swabs for Diphtheria... ...	28	131	159
Sputa for Tubercle ...	106	62	168
Swabs for Haemolytic Streptococci ...	14	2	16
Totals ...	148	195	243

DRAINAGE

No important changes took place in the drainage of the District during the year 1941.

SANITARY STATISTICS

No. of Houses connected to the sewer	No. of Houses not connected to sewers	No. of Houses not provided with a piped water supply	No. of wells still in use for purpose of domestic supply
3858	144	—	—

SANITARY CONVENIENCES

W.C.s	Pan or Pail Closets	Midden Privies	Ashpits separate from Midden Privies	Cesspools	
				No. of	No. of houses into
5783	5	2	3	133	140

WATER SUPPLY

There were no extensions to the mains during the year.

HOUSING

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.

(1) (a) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 2

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 6

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ... Nil

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... Nil

2.—Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 2

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:

(a) By owners ... ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... Nil

(c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

4.—Housing Act, 1936: Overcrowding.

(a) (i) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... —

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... ... —

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ... —

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... —

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved — during the year ... ... —

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... —

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... —

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding you may consider it desirable to report ... ... —

Number of New Houses Erected during the year:

By the Local Authority	Nil
By other persons	Nil

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION

No important alterations were made in the method and disposal of house refuse during the year.

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The contents of cesspools are emptied by the Council on the request of the occupiers of the premises concerned.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Maternity and Child Welfare work in this District is under the control of the Urban District Council.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS

Number of sessions held		18
Number of attendances:	ante-natal	183
	post-natal	5
Average attendance per session		10

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE

Number of names on register:	Mothers	418
	Children	418
Number of attendances:	Mothers	4,764
	Children	4,308
Number of sessions held		52
Average attendance per session:	Mothers	93
	Children	82

SUNLIGHT TREATMENT

During the year 118 sessions were held. at which 1,389 treatments were given to 105 children.

VOLUNTARY WORKERS

I have again great pleasure in placing on record my high appreciation of the work done during the year under review by the voluntary workers of the Sevenoaks Mothers' and Babies' Welfare Organisation. Again, owing to war conditions and the additional work caused by the presence of evacuated children, a considerable strain has been thrown on the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Organisation. That this has been well met is obvious to all who are associated with the work, and this happy result is largely due to the enthusiastic and untiring efforts of the voluntary workers. This town is always under a deep debt of gratitude to these workers, but never more so than in these times in which we are now living.

FREE AND ASSISTED SUPPLY OF MILK

Milk supplied free	Nil
Dried milk supplied free	Nil
Dried milk supplied at cost price	1,239 lbs.

The operation of the National Milk Scheme is in force in this District.

HEALTH VISITOR

One full-time Health Visitor is employed by the Council and works under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health.

During the year she has paid the following number of visits:

Primary visits	149
Revisits	1,387
Visits re Infectious Disease	60
Visits re Diphtheria Immunisation	
Miscellaneous visits	215

NURSING AND MATERNITY HOMES

The County Council has delegated to the District Council the powers under the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to Nursing and Maternity Homes.

There are nine registered premises within the District, the number of beds available being 24 for maternity cases and 42 for other cases.

SCHOOLS

There are four elementary schools within the District.

REGULATED TRADES

	Number of Premises	Visits Paid	Defects.	
			Found.	Remedied.
Dairies	8	152	2	2
Cowsheds	1	15	1	1
Slaughterhouses :				
Licensed ... ... / Registered ...	2	659	4	4
Bakehouses	7	55	2	2
Piggeries	—	—	—	—
Other food preparing places	32	134	3	3
Factories . . ... / Workshops ... ... / Workplaces	62	30	1	1
Common Lodging Houses... / Houses-Let-in-Lodgings ...	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	112	1045	13	13

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDER, 1936

During the year the following number of licences were granted by the Council :—

Tuberculin Tested	6
Pasteurised	2

The following number of samples of milk have been examined during the year :—

Tuberculin Tested	2
Accredited	2
Pasteurised	28
Ordinary	5
Hospital supply	12

MEAT—CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

The following Table shows the work done in connection with slaughterhouses:—

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known) ...	925	430	522	6465	1709
Number of animals inspected...	925	430	522	6465	1709
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned ...	...	...	...	5	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	9	...	1	11	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	.937	...	.192	.249	1.4
Tuberculosis Only ... ... Whole carcases condemned ...	...	17	...	...	...
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	79	3	2	...	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	8.432	.484	.383	...	2.048

SHOPS ACTS

During the year 54 inspections of shops were made, and four contraventions relating to sanitary accommodation were dealt with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action was required with respect to nuisances arising from the emission of smoke.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS

There is one public swimming bath in the District, the water passing through a continuous filtration plant.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No Council houses were found to be infested during the year. Two other houses were disinfested during the year by the use of Zaldecide.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

It was not found necessary to institute legal proceedings to enforce the abatement of nuisances.

ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS

No Acts or Bye-laws were adopted during the year.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED during the Year 1941

Disease	Number of Cases Notified												Total cases removed to Hospital	Deaths
	All Ages	at ages—years												
		Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever ...	8	...	...	...	...	1	3	2	1	1	...	...	7	...
Diphtheria ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	..
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	2	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Erysipelas ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	7*
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	1	...	...	3	...
Whooping Cough ...	14	...	2	1	1	1	3	6	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	74	1	...	6	5	5	27	20	8	1	1	...	...	...
Totals	106	1	2	7	7	7	34	30	14	3	1	...	13	7

* All forms

DEATHS REGISTERED during the Year 1941

Disease	Males.	Females.	Total.
Typhoid Fever, etc.	...	...	...
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever...	..	...	...
Whooping Cough	...	...	...
Diphtheria	...	...	...
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	2	7
Other tuberculous diseases	1	...	1
Syphilitic diseases	...	1	1
Influenza	3	4	7
Measles	...	...	...
Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	1	1
Acute Infantile Encephalitis ...	...	...	...
Cancer of Bronchial Cavity ...	...	2	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	1	1
Cancer of the Breast	...	5	5
Cancer, all other forms	6	12	18
Diabetes	1	1	2
Intra cranial vesc. lesions	3	17	20
Heart diseases	14	29	43
Other diseases of circulatory system	...	2	2
Bronchitis	3	1	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2	7
Other respiratory diseases	1	...	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	...	...
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years) ...	...	...	...
Appendicitis	...	...	...
Other digestive diseases	4	4	8
Nephritis	2	1	3
Post and post-abort. sepsis	...	...	...
Other maternal causes	...	...	...
Premature Birth	...	...	...
Congenital malformation and birth injury	2	1	3
Suicide	...	...	...
Road accidents	2	...	2
Other violent causes	2	6	8
All other causes	11	6	17
TOTALS	65	98	163

The Urban District Council of Sevenoaks

REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Council Offices,
Argyle Road,
Sevenoaks.
1941.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting to you a summary of the work carried out in the Public Health Department during the year 1941.

General Inspections

The routine inspections of the district have been carried out, and special attention has been paid to the registered premises under the Milk and Dairies Order and the inspection of Meat and other Foods.

A number of premises in the town have been in the occupation of His Majesty's Forces, and on the whole these have been very well conducted. The Offices of the D.C.R.E. are in the town, and there has been close co-operation between the Officials of that Department and my own.

Very few complaints have been registered during the year and these have all been dealt with by informal action.

During the year 31 rooms were fumigated, and 113 batches of bedding and clothing etc. were removed to the Council's Hospital, Oak Lane, for steam disinfection.

Drainage

There were no extensions to the main sewerage system of the district or to the surface water sewers during the year. Sixty-five defects relating to the cleansing and repair of drainage were dealt with.

Milk Supplies

There were no complaints received concerning the milk supply of the area during the year. There is one modern Pasteurising Plant in the area, and this has been regularly inspected and samples taken to ascertain that the milk is properly pasteurised. Accredited Milk is produced at one farm in the area.

A total of 35 samples of the milk supply were taken during the year and submitted to the County Laboratories, Maidstone, for examination. On the whole these proved very satisfactory. The samples taken consisted of:—

Pasteurised	28
Tuberculin Tested	2
Ordinary Milk	5

Under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 8 Milk Dealers' Licences were issued for the sale of Designated Milk, 6 for Tuberculin Tested and 2 for Pasteurised. One Pasteuriser's Licence was also issued in respect of Clenches Dairy, for the pasteurisation of Milk.

Water Supplies

No complaints were received during the year concerning the domestic water supply of the town. Twelve samples were taken from various parts of the district and submitted for bacteriological examination; the reports upon these were all satisfactory. Four samples of water were also taken from the Public Swimming Baths, Eardley Road, Sevenoaks, and submitted for examination; the reports upon these were also satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses, Meat and Food Inspections

Special attention has been paid to the work under this heading. The two slaughterhouses in the town have been continually used by the Ministry of Food for the slaughtering of cattle. These have been conducted in a very satisfactory manner, and close co-operation exists between my Department and the Manager of the slaughterhouses appointed by the Ministry of Food. This has entailed much night work, as invariably the meat is required to be moved early on the morning following slaughter.

I would like to record my appreciation of the voluntary services rendered by Mr. A. D. Lofts, Sanitary Inspector for the Rural area of Sevenoaks, in connection with this work.

The cattle killed in the slaughterhouses are principally allocated to the Sevenoaks Urban area and the whole of the Rural area, with the exception of those graded for manufacture.

During the year the following animals were slaughtered:— Cattle 1,355; Calves 522; Sheep 6,465; Pigs 1,709.

During the same period 8 tons 2 cwts. 20½ lbs. of unsound meat was dealt with in the slaughterhouses. This is officially recorded and dealt with under the Salvage Scheme of the Ministry of Food. In addition, 3 cwts. 21½ lbs. of other food was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Summary

In accordance with the Sanitary Officers' Order, I give below the number and nature of inspections carried out :—

Bakehouses	55
Dairies	167
Slaughterhouses and Meat Inspection	695
Food Preparing Places	134
Factory and Workshops Act	26
Nuisances	116
Shops Acts	54
Infectious Diseases	91
Miscellaneous	108
Informal Notices	80
Total	1,526

A.R.P. work and the work under the Fuel and Lighting Order, under which I act as the Council's Local Fuel Overseer, has again claimed much time, and in connection with this I would like to record my best thanks to Miss O. Matthews, who has worked extremely hard in carrying out the work of my Department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

W. J. GYPPS,

Sanitary Inspector.